

PHILIPPINES

I. Long-smouldering feud between President
~~(His fellow party member,~~
Magsaysay and ~~ultranationalist Senator~~

Recto, has finally erupted into open political break.

A. Basic issue between the two has been whether or not Philippines should pursue a pro-American policy.

B. Immediate cause for split was Recto's charge that Philippine recognition of South Vietnam was dictated by US and that Magsaysay was an "American puppet."

II. Magsaysay, who has soft-pedaled Recto problem in interest of Nationalista Party harmony, has taken off the gloves.

A. Publicly announced that he would oppose Recto's renomination in November, and would campaign ~~against him if he is~~ nominated.

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Recto is expected to continue maintain virulent anti-Magsaysay, anti-US attitude.

- A. He has indicated that he may seek to form a new political party, and he threatened to run against Magsaysay in 1957 if the latter again runs for the presidency.
- B. Other reports indicate that he is attempting to obtain support of opposition Liberal Party senators.
- C. ^{His} Present support consists of a small handful of "old guard" Nationalista senators.
- D. It is significant, however, that these--particularly Jose Laurel--have not yet backed him up in break with Magsaysay.
- E. Unless there is drastic change in Philip- ping political climate, Recto will prob- ably fail to win renomination for Senate.